



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Health Care Quality and Cost Council
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JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.
Chair

KATHARINE LONDON
Executive Director

Health Care Quality and Cost Council

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2008

Time: 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Place: 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA
Public Health Council Room – 2nd Floor

Councilors Attending: JudyAnn Bigby (Chair), John Auerbach, Charlie Baker, Kevin Beagan, Beth Capstick, David Friedman, Sarah Iselin, Leslie Kirwan, Ken LaBresh, Joe Lawler, Tom Lee, Shannon Linde, Dolores Mitchell, Greg Sullivan, and Anya Rader Wallack. Jim Conway participated by phone.

I. The Council approved the minutes of its September 17th, 2008 meeting.

II. Items for Discussion

A. Budget: Revised FY2009 Spending Plan

The Governor's 9C cuts reduced the Council's budget by \$705,762, which represents 37% of the Council's FY09 budget and 60% of the Council's funding for the remainder of the year. Secretary Bigby introduced the following motion to address the budget cut:

The Chair and Treasurer will create a budget that reflects retention of such core staff as is necessary to complete the preparations for the launch of the website; the remaining staff shall be laid off as October 31st; the Council accepts the plan for the ongoing work of the Council as contained in the memo dated October 21, 2008 sent by the Chair to the Council members; the revised budget for the Council shall include funding for the position of a Council coordinator who shall be responsible for ensuring that the work of the Council is fully coordinated and carried out as the Council directs through collaboration with staff assigned to the work, for ensuring that all Council and Committee meetings are scheduled, for interacting on the Council's behalf with the public, for updating Council members on a weekly basis on the progress of the Council's work, and other duties as appropriate; and the Chair and the Treasurer shall present a final budget to the Council at the next meeting that reflects these decisions.

The Council discussed the downturn in state revenues that necessitated 9C cuts, the plan for using DHCFP and DPH staff to support the Council, and the role of the proposed coordinator position. Councilors expressed disappointment with the budget cuts, concerns that DHCFP and DPH staff are already stretched thin, and concerns that the budget cuts could negatively impact the Council's ability to meet its statutory mandates.

The Council approved the motion by a vote of 13-2 (Charlie Baker & Greg Sullivan opposed).

B. Committee Report

- End of Life Care. Jim Conway reviewed the End of Life Committee report. See full report posted on www.mass.gov/healthcare.

C. Approval of Data Release Review Board members and Application Form

The Council unanimously approved the recommended candidates for the Data Release Review Board and the Data Release Application Form. (Kevin Beagan abstaining)

D. Vote to enter Executive Session to discuss website data issues

The Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session to review confidential data for display on the website.